

# What is Zero Waste?

**Zero waste is a philosophy that promotes reuse, recycling, composting and conservation programs, and emphasizes sustainability by considering the entire life-cycle of products and systems.**

This comprehensive systems-approach promotes waste prevention by:

- Manufacturing products and packaging for the environment;
- Using less toxic materials in production and manufacturing;
- Providing longer product life by developing more durable goods; and
- Designing products that are repairable and easily disassembled at the end of their useful life.

## **Zero Waste Defined by the Zero Waste International Alliance:**

Zero waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient, and visionary to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, and discarded materials are managed as a resource, as opposed to a waste management issue.

## **Zero Waste means:**

- Designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials
- Conserve and recover all resources
- Not burn or bury our recyclable, compostable, reusable materials.

Implementing zero waste will eliminate discharges to land, water, or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal, or plant health.

(from ZeroWasteSonoma <http://zerowastesonoma.org/what-is-zero-waste/>)